



STATE OF ARKANSAS

ASA HUTCHINSON
GOVERNOR

August 10, 2017

Interagency Criminal Justice Commission
Council of State Governments

Dear Members of the Commission:

Please accept my thanks for your work on this project and your help in developing the first Crisis Stabilization Units in Arkansas. As you all are aware, these Crisis Stabilization Units promise to provide a great deal of help to our state, not merely in helping to relieve jail overcrowding and assisting our first-responders, but also in making sure that those who need help are more likely to get it.

When this project was originally proposed, we agreed to fund three Crisis Stabilization Units at up to \$1.6 million each. However, we have since received four great applications, each from a community in our state with the local support and leadership we are looking for on this project. So substantial is this support, in fact, that we have decided to move forward with funding all four projects and ensure the state's support for units in Craighead, Pulaski, Sebastian and Washington counties.

We have already committed \$5 million to this project. With today's announcement that all four projects will be funded, I am committing an additional \$1.4 million from the state's Rainy Day Fund to support Crisis Stabilization Units. This funding will need approval from the Arkansas Legislative Council, and I will finalize my request for additional funding to them in the meantime.

I believe that the promise of Crisis Stabilization Units and their potential to reduce criminalization of those with mental health problems is more than sufficient to justify our state's investment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Asa Hutchinson", written over a horizontal line.

Asa Hutchinson